MUSIC 211
UNDERGRADUATE THEORY I
Fall 2016
Anthony K. Brandt
M, W, F 11:00 – 11:50

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Course Description:
This course aims to introduce students to music theory. Instead of a historical perspective, the course takes a style-transcendent approach, focusing on concepts and principles that underlie the entire Western classical music tradition. It does so with a mix of analytic and creative exercises. The first part of the class explores music and cognition, as well as the underlying values of classical music. In the middle portion of the course, we will study formal, motivic and harmonic analysis separately, and then combine them in comprehensive analyses of selected works. The course concludes with a creative workshop, where students will write short exercises and an original composition to be performed by their classmates.

Texts:
Required: Music 211 Coursepacket

Recordings of most of the scores studied in class may be streamed for free from any campus computer through the Classical Music Library:
https://login.ezproxy.rice.edu/login?qurl=http%3a%2f%2fclmu.alexanderstreet.com%2f

Though not required, you're also encouraged to buy notation software to help with the scores and parts for the creative assignments.

Attendance

Class preparation and participation are crucial components of the course. You are allowed one unexcused absence. After that, each absence lowers your grade by one third of a letter grade (e.g. from A to A-). Absences may be excused by a doctor's note or a note from your major teacher (for an audition, concert, etc.).

"Notation Boot Camp"
A diagnostic test will be given on the first day of class that covers basic notation and theory, including transposition, interval identification, rhythm and meter, key signatures and diatonic Roman numeral analysis. Students who have difficulty with the diagnostic exam will be assigned to a special section that meets on Thursday evenings from 7-8 in Room 1705.
The goal of the "Notation Boot Camp" will be to make you fluent in basic theory and notation within 4-6 weeks. Attendance is mandatory. You are responsible for all "boot camp" assignments, in addition to the regular coursework.

Assignments
Assignments will be handed out on Mondays and due at the beginning of lecture the following Monday

Exams
There will be two in-class exams during weeks 7 and 11.

Final Project
In lieu of a final exam, you will be assigned a final creative project, to be performed in class during the last week of the semester.

Grading
Your final grade will be computed as follows:
Two exams: 30%
Final Project: 15%
Assignments: 40%
Attendance and class participation: 15%

COURSE SCHEDULE

Class Dates	Topic
	Introduction
Week 1	Placement Test; Music and the Creative Mind
Week 2	The Underlying Values of Classical Music
Week 3	In-class performances
Week 4	Orchestration and Score Reading
Week 5	In-class performances
	Analysis and Voice-leading
Week 6	Formal and Motivic Analysis
Week 7	Formal and Motivic Analysis, cont.; **EXAM No. 1**
Week 8	Harmonic Analysis
Week 9	Harmonic Analysis, cont.
Week 10	Introduction to Voice-leading
Week 11	Voice-leading, cont.; **EXAM No. 2**
	Analysis and Composition
Week 12	Theme and Variations, Part I
Week 13	Theme and Variations, Part II
Week 14	In-class performances: Final Creative Project
Week 15	In-class Performances

If you have a documented disability that will impact your work in this class, please contact me to discuss your needs. Additionally, you will need to register with the Disability Support Services Office in the Ley Student Center.